

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of February 23, 2005, has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. By the present amendment, Applicants have amended claims 7, 17, 27, 31, 33, 34, 36, 39, 41, 42, 44, 47, 49, 50, and 52, and have canceled claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 32, 35, 37-38, 40, 43, 45-46, 48, 51, and 53-54. Claims 7, 17, 27, 31, 33, 34, 36, 39, 41, 42, 44, 47, 49, 50, and 52 remain pending after entry of the present amendment. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 11, 21, 31, 39, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Vaitzblit (US 2002/0007363). By the present amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 11, and 21. Applicants have amended claims 31, 39 and 47 to depend from allowable claims. This rejection is therefore moot.

Claims 6, 16, 26, 32-35, 38, 40-43, 46, 48-51, and 54 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vaitzblit in view of Buchanan (U.S. Pat. No. 5,758,355). By the present amendment, Applicants have canceled claims 6, 16, 26, 32, 35, 38, 40, 43, 46, 48, 51, and 54. Applicants have amended claims 33, 34, 41, 42, 49, and 50 to depend from allowable claims. This rejection is therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 7, 17, and 27. Applicant has amended claims 7, 17, and 27 to each be in independent form, including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have also amended claims 31, 33, 34, 36, 39, 41, 42, 44, 47, 49, 50, and 52 to each depend back to one of allowed claims 7, 17, or 27. Thus, all claims now either stand allowed or have been amended to depend back to an allowed claim.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Appln. No.: 09/876,993
Reply to Office Action of February 23, 2005

However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 824-3153.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 23 day of May, 2005

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